

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12822 151646Z

70 60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /050 W

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R 151605Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648

S E C R E T BEIRUT 12822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: DELAY IN OPENING OF AUB & BUC

1. AUB AND BUC NOT REPEAT NOT OPENING. SAM KIRKWOOD, PRESIDENT OF AUB, TOLD ME YESTERDAY, OCT 14, THAT HE AND ALBERT BADRE, PRESIDENT OF BUC, HAD BEEN ADVISED ON OCT 13 (I.E. ORDERED) BY PRESIDENT FRANGIE NOT REPEAT NOT TO OPEN THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSITIES AS PLANNED ON OCT 14. KIRKWOOD HAD SOUGHT AN URGENT MEETING WITH FRANGIE, FOR THE IMPLICATIONS FOR AUB WERE EXTREMELY SERIOUS, NOT ONLY CURRICULUM-WISE BUT ALSO FINANCIALLY. FRANGIE HAD REFUSED TO SEE HIM YESTERDAY BUT HAD GIVEN HIM APPOINTMENT FOR TODAY. KIRKWOOD HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT FRANGIE SOMEWHAT PUT OUT WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND HAD SUSPECTED THAT FRANGIE'S ATTITUDE MIGHT HAVE INVOLVED SOME POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN CONCERN RE STUDENTS' SAFETY. LATTER SUSPICION SOMEWHAT REINFORCED WHEN MINISTER INTERIOR CHAMOUN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE HE COULD MAINTAIN SECURITY AT UNIVERSITY.

2. KIRKWOOD HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT HE, CHARLES MALIK AND BADRE HAD MOST CORDIAL MEETING WITH FRANGIE THIS MORNING. FRANGIE HAD EXPLAINED THAT HE FELT THE LIFE OF ONE STUDENT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN CURRICULUM OR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND THEREFORE DESIRED AUB AND BUC, BOTH OF WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS VULNERABLE INSTITUTIONS, NOT REPEAT NOT OPEN. FRANGIE INDICATED

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 12822 151646Z

HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CURRENT ARAB LEAGUE FON

MINISTRS MEETING IN CAIRO AND TO THE PARAGRAPH OF THE PLO'S
5 POINT STATEMENT IN WHICH IT INDICATED THAT PLO WOULD
RESPECT EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH GOL.

3. KIRKWOOD AND BADRE HAVE BOTH AGREED TO KEEP PRESIDENT'S
INTERVENTION MOST CONFIDENTIAL. KIRKWOOD IS REPORTING ON
FOREGOING TO HOWARD PAGE VIA A TRUSTED ASSOCIATE WHO IS
LEAVING BEIRUT TOMORROW FOR NEW YORK. HE WOULD, HOWEVER,
BE GRATEFUL IF DEPARTMENT OFICER MIGHT INFORM AMBASSADOR
PARKER HART AND HOWARD PAGE OF THIS MESSAGE IN CASE
MESSENGER IS DELAYED. KIRKWOOD AND I WILL BE MEETING
SOME TIME NEXT WEEK WHEN WE CAN GO OVER TOGETHER THE
IMPLICATIONS TO AUB OF CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

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